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# May 2025 In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,  
The Old Testament book Song of Solomon says in Chapter 2: 11 "For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; 12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; 13 The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

May is the month that truly brings Spring to fruition. April gave us Easter which always brings the promise of new life. Not just from death - which of course is a huge gift - but a chance to rediscover our own lives as Easter people - people who know that God will always bring new life out of seeming death.

When we have those moments when it seems all hope is gone or that the death of dreams and plans has seemed imminent, God often has a new idea for us.

Focusing on God's call, centering our ministry in prayer, and being open to new ideas of what life looks like, will

guide us to where God is leading us. Spring, with its new growth, is an exciting time to be alive. As blossoms unfold, as the hatchlings emerge from their eggs, as the world around us grows green and lush with color, Grace is also coming to life with new growth.

God is present in all of this. Just as the women at the empty tomb did not recognize the resurrection of Jesus at first, so we, too, need to look with a fresh perspective to see where Jesus is present in our lives and the life of our church. As we move forward into spring, may the God of all hope and resurrection inspire each of us to see our church, our world, and ourselves in new ways as we live into our call as Easter people. Thanks be to God for the hope of new life!

Pastor Karen



## Announcements

- Thank you to everyone who made Lent, Holy Week, and Easter so meaningful! Thanks to each committee that provided our Wednesday meals, thanks to the song leaders, special music providers, speakers, and participants. A special shout out to the creative Peeps Dioramas as we took a Peep into the Bible! Thank you to all who ordered flowers for our Easter Garden that beautified our sanctuary. A special thank you to our staff, chancel care, and all who made this season come together smoothly. Together, we made the journey of Lent worthwhile and special. Now we live as Easter people!
- Congratulations and many blessings to our Confirmands who will Affirm their Faith on Sunday, May 4, during worship. Cami Alleman, Tony Childs, Alexis Petersen, and Kaliska Reed will confirm the promises made in baptism on their behalf. May you be filled with the love, joy, and peace of Christ all the days of your lives. There will be a reception following worship. Come and celebrate!
- Growing through Loss is a chance to hear speakers about various forms of loss as well as gather in small groups to process the grief you may be experiencing with others. This free event will be offered in partnership with our neighboring churches on Tuesdays, May 6, 13, and 20, at 6:30 p.m. each week. We will be meeting at St. Pascal's which is just north of Grace on White Bear Ave. & 3rdSt. Enter from the rear parking lot on Flandreau St. See Pastor Karen with questions or more information.
- On the third Wednesday of each month from 2-3 p.m., Cerenity-Marian Park Senior Living offers a Dementia Support Group. Consider attending and finding the support and understanding you need with others who are caregivers and seeing loved ones going through this. All are welcome.
- Graduate recognition Sunday will be on June 1 during worship! If you know of a graduate that you would like to recognize, please let Pastor Karen know. Congratulations on a job well done!!
- New Member Sunday is May 18. We will welcome those new to our church family during worship that morning and celebrate afterwards with our Rhubarb Festival Brunch. If you or someone you know is interested in membership at Grace, please let Pastor Karen know.
- Memorial Day services will be offered at Union Cemetery on Monday, May 26, at 10 a.m. Pastor Karen will be offering the Invocation as well as the Benediction. Take a moment to remember those who gave their all for our freedom.
- **May 3rd is Spring Clean-up Day at the church from 10-2. Join us!**

## MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month at Grace is Dwelling Place. The Dwelling Place offers safe transitional housing and Christ-centered support services for women and children who have suffered domestic abuse. Dwelling Place's extended-stay program provides a loving community and one-on-one case management to help clients discover their new identity: a woman created by God, worthy of love, and beautiful inside and out. The Dwelling Place offers healing and hope.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this organization which reaches out to God's women and children at some of their most frightening moments and offers safety, guidance and hope for a better future.

Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.



### Come Be a Part of the Worship Team! Part 2

As promised, here are descriptions for each opportunity to join the Worship Team.

**Greeters** - all ages, arrive by 9:10, greet people at the lower level before the service

**Ushers** - all ages, arrive by 9:10, hand out bulletins, gather offering, help direct Communion, tidy Sanctuary after worship

**Acolyte** - all ages (with adult assistance if younger than 5<sup>th</sup> grade), arrive by 9:15, robe for festival services, light candles before the service, assist with communion during service, extinguish candles at end of service,

**Lay Reader** - all ages, arrive by 9:15, read the scripture lesson during worship

**Liturgist** - Confirmed members, arrive by 9:15, robe for most services, assist with leading the service, help serve Communion

**Communion Assistant** - Confirmed members, arrive by 9:20, robe for festival services, assist serving communion during service

**Money Counter** - Confirmed member, count offering money after the service

**Chancel Care Assistant** - all ages (with adult supervision if younger than 5<sup>th</sup> grade), after the service, assist in tidying up the altar area, putting away communion ware.

**Sunday Fellowship Treats Provider** - all ages (with adult participation), set up treats before the service, including making coffee, serve treats during Fellowship following the service, clean up after Fellowship time.

There will be specific instruction given for each position.

Accommodations can be made for all abilities. Examples: Lay Readers can read from the floor, or the pew instead of the lectern. Communion Assistants can sit or stand behind a tray on a table while "saying the words" to serve communion. Ushers may sit while handing out bulletins.

Sign up sheets will be posted in the Good Shepherd Lounge after Easter. Please consider signing up to serve at least a couple of times during the summer. We appreciate your willingness to be part of the team!

# SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR MERRICK

Please note that during the entire month of June, the Mission Committee will sponsor a special collection of non-perishable food items to be donated to Merrick Food Shelf. Cash donations will also gratefully be accepted. The number of visits is on the rise and children who normally receive free breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday at school will now need to eat at home during the summer months. There will be a display table in the Good Shepherd Lounge. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.



## Music Notes -

**Aldous** Huxley, the author of *Brave New World*, said, "After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music. One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain. Music is a moral law." That can apply to all music, whether it be written for church or for the outside world such as for movies.

Two composers, born on May 10<sup>th</sup> 11 years apart, are recognized as founders of movie music. Before Max Steiner, soundtracks behind movies were mostly snippets of classical music. Max Steiner was the one who convinced the producer of *King Kong* to have new music created for its' soundtrack. He hired an 80 piece orchestra. For the first time, music demonstrated how it could manipulate the audience's emotions, adding an additional layer to remembering scenes. How do you feel when you hear those 2 screechy high violin notes from *Psycho*? Or those two very low notes from *Jaws*? Steiner built on a technique developed by Wagner called *leitmotifs*. Each character had its' own theme, something John Williams does in his movie music.

One of the most memorable scores Steiner wrote besides *King Kong* was a movie score 3 hours long which he took 3 months to complete - *Gone with the Wind*. Sometimes he worked 20 hours straight, assisted by daily doses of Benzedrine. That score is ranked #2 as America's greatest film score by the American Film Institute.

In contrast, born on May 10<sup>th</sup> eleven years later, Dimitri Tiomkin really wanted to be a concert pianist. He studied with some of the best in Russia. After the Revolution though, many musicians moved to Berlin or other places to find steady work. While in Berlin he continued his concert career, eventually joining another pianist to become a duo. The two were invited to come to the U.S. to perform in vaudeville as well as accompany ballet performances.

After the Stock Market Crash, Tiomkin moved to Hollywood to find more work. Even though he wanted to continue his concert career, that ended abruptly when he broke his arm. At about the same time, he met a movie director by the name of Frank Capra who commissioned him to write his first big score *Lost Horizon*.

A funny story about how music can influence a movie: the movie *High Noon*, before it was released to the public, was seen as a total flop. Tiomkin had written its' theme song, "Do Not Forsake Me, O My Darlin'". He recorded it, getting it on the radio and it was an instant success. Four months later they released the movie and because of the theme song, the movie earned 4 Academy Awards, 2 going to Tiomkin.

Tiomkin would really do his homework when developing his scores. He would time each scene down to the second, approaching each segment like a term paper. He would meet with the actors, analyzing their voices for pitch and rhythm. Since he was the first composer to write both the theme song and the score, he integrated that song throughout the movie. Remember that the next time you watch *It's a Wonderful Life*.

How does film music relate to church music? If you attended our Palm Sunday, Good Friday or Easter Sunday service, how did the music play an active role? The choir, organ, instrumental music, how did it add that additional layer to the message and the atmosphere created? These two composers refreshed our spirits, adding their special gifts to years of movie enjoyment.



## FROM THE LIBRARY:

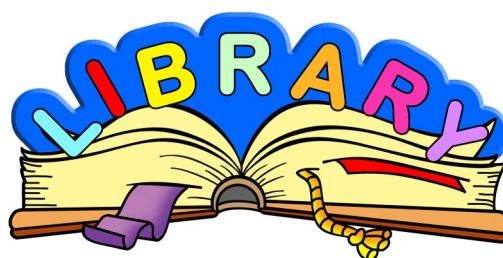
Here are a few new suggestions:

The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett - A moving and joyous novel about an elderly woman ready to embrace death and a little girl who reminds her what it means to love.

The Girl They Left Behind - A sweeping family saga and love story that offers a vivid and unique portrayal of life in war-torn 1941 Bucharest.

All The Rivers - A controversial, award winning story about the passionate but untenable affair between an Israeli Woman and a Palestinian man, from one of Israel's most acclaimed novelists.

Gather Magazine - Spring Edition: the magazine of Women's ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action.



## What's Happening in the Library?

Let us introduce ourselves, we are Adam & Kayla and Tom & Stacy! In early February, the Revier & Studiner families were approached by Carol Golder asking if we would be willing to take over the management of the Grace Library. We, of course, accepted the offer and planned on transitioning in early March. During our conversation with Carol, we learned in ins and outs of the library, her processes along with some hopes she had for the next evolution. As we begin this new journey, we want to ensure to keep Carol's love for the library alive!

Each week we will continue to manage the book return, donations and \*Coming Soon\* an update on the flow of the library to highlight all of the wonderful things the space has to offer and in partnership with Amanda and the Sunday School, an update to the kids reading area!! If you see us elbows deep in books, please stop by and say hello!!

## Grace Book Club -

Here are the latest titles chosen -  
For discussion on:

May 1      The Berry Pickers      Amanda Peters

June 5      Demon Copperhead      Barbara Kingsolver

No July meeting

August 7      Remarkably Bright Creatures      Shelby Van Pelt

## Sunday School

April was an exciting month. We learned about the Last Supper and how that passover meal Jesus had with his disciples reminds us about the Exodus and story of Moses that we learned about at the start of this Sunday School year. Also, what our Holy Communion means to us today.

The kids sang their songs of Hosanna! on Palm Sunday. We even had Jesus riding in on a donkey with them. I am so proud of them for their courage to sing in front of the congregation. Easter morning the kids had fun with the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year they also had to find and solve a puzzle.

We have one more month of Sunday School until summer break. Looking forward to finishing up the year with more fun lessons and growing in our faith together.

**As always, if anyone is wanting to help out with Sunday School in any way please contact Amanda Christie.**



"Nita Hanson painted these centerpieces many years ago. Glad to see them still being used on Palm Sunday"

## **Puzzle Contest Update:**

Thank you to everyone that came out for the Puzzle Contest. It was so much fun and we will definitely be doing it again.



Congrats to Lana, Lauren and Karin for being the first team to complete the puzzle. Their time would have been slightly faster if a piece had not fallen into a jacket pocket.



# Easter Egg Hunt 2025



## XYZ's May Meeting

**The May meeting of the XYZ's on May 8th will be a Ride to the Rice Park area on the new Gold Line Express for lunch at the St. Paul Grill.**

The plan is to meet at the Woodbury transit station and ride downtown, then after lunch to ride back. We will meet at 11 to be downtown by around 11:30am. Come join us to try out this new opportunity since it runs right by the church! The fare is \$2 round trip for seniors.



# Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

## Internal, Local and Global

**If you would consider serving treats** on a Sunday morning, we would appreciate your help. Please take a look at the sign-up schedule in the South Tower room and see if there is a date that works for you to help out! If you would be willing to bring treats but would prefer to not serve, please speak with Linda Sackreiter and we can arrange that as well.

Thanks for your help!!

### 2025 Collections

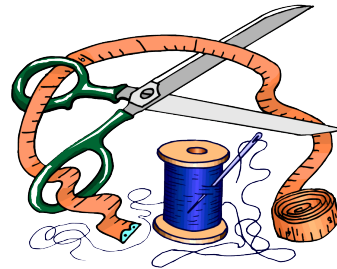
**Quilts, baby care kits** (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 or 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz)

We will be delivering quilts and kits to the LWR warehouse again this spring after gifting a quilt to each Confirmand.

Other on-going collections at Grace - used eye glasses and cancelled stamps. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf. Also, Sandy Abernathy will take any American Flags that need to be disposed of properly. These can be left in the collection area in the library. (We are not currently saving soup can labels) Thank you for all donations!



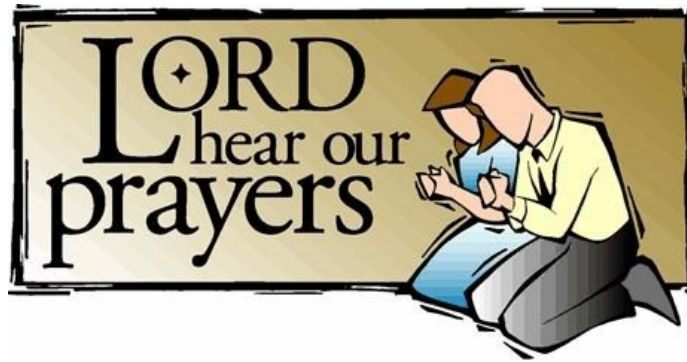
**Quilt Days**— We will be meeting again in May on the 2nd Saturday (10th) but the 4th Saturday is Memorial weekend so we will not meet. All are welcome to join us. No skills necessary, we will teach. Most months we meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in the Tower rooms. Come join us in this month for some good conversation and to put those hands to use for a wonderful cause. Lutheran World Relief distributes donated quilts all over the world including in the US.



**Miles of Pennies** The large collection jar in the library is always accepting donations toward giving to the LSS fund for helping homeless Youth in St. Paul. We are well on our way to our goal of \$250. Let's exceed that again in 2025! Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your generous donations of coins and paper money are appreciated.







**We lift our prayers to God** in times of thanksgiving and times of need, in times of joy and times of sorrow. This month we especially pray for Stacy Bray, (Marlene Hockbein's niece), Judy Adam, Bev Henderson, Carol Anderson, Butch Nelson, April Premo (niece of Judy Nelson), and all those we name in our hearts.

#### **How to donate other than in the offering plate:**

There is always snail mail. The office is open to receive the mail and our bookkeeper will count what comes in each week and deposit it in the bank. Our address: 1730 Old Hudson Road, St. Paul, 55106.

To donate electronically: You can schedule a transfer of funds with your own bank if they have bill pay available and it will come automatically on the date you choose. Otherwise, you can go to our website ([www.gracelutheranstpaul.org](http://www.gracelutheranstpaul.org)) and click on the GIVE page.

This site is secure for financial transactions through Vanco which is the Simply Giving program. At the GIVE page you can go through the steps as directed and give whatever amount you wish to several different categories (general, other, etc.) This works best on the Firefox or Edge browsers. This does get to us electronically in a very timely manner. If you are comfortable using the QR, it will take you directly to the GIVE page on the website. **Please call the office if you have any questions.** Thank you.

Give QR



#### **Financial Snapshot for GLC-2023**

	<u>March Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$ 14,729.33	\$ 44,709.16	\$40,450.01
Expenses	\$ <u>26,127.66</u>	\$ <u>72,217.98</u>	\$ <u>88,279.98</u>
Deficit/Overage	- \$ 11,398.33	-\$ 27,508.82	-\$47,829.97



1 Carol Anderson  
Nick Olson  
4 Kaity Major Billstein  
11 Alex Pearson  
Henry Slotsve  
14 Larry Atneosen  
Anna Runquist  
16 Brian Buck  
Erik Engh  
Xenia Stewart  
17 Marisa Gilgenbach  
Christian Ray-Taylor  
19 Norm Baer  
Ryan Westling  
20 Ed Holtan

22 David Killeen  
23 Grant Loiler  
25 Ron Swenson  
29 Joel Johnson



## Worship Leaders for May 2025 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
4	Barb Holtan	Dakota Reed	Jim Baumer
11	Jeff Oberlander	Kaliska Reed	Sig Johnson
18	Vincent Momoh	Tony Childs	Linda Baer
25	Connie Smeby	Cami Alleman	Phyllis Hunter

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u> (the families of the acolytes are also helping out)
4	Brian Jackson, Lydia Rose, Violet Rose
11	Jeff Oberlander, Ann Oberlander, Johanna Oberlander
18	Brian Jackson, Patty Young
25	Brian Petersen, Rachel Petersen, Molly Petersen

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
4	Monique McClure-Hegge team
11	Amanda Christie team
18	Kate Pray team
25	Lana Alleman team

We could use some additional usher volunteers - Please contact Brian Jackson if you are interested in helping out. 612-323-5673

**SAVE THE DATE - May 18th will be the day of our Rhubarb Festival this year!**  
We will be doing something different, a Free-Will Breakfast Brunch provided by our own Worship Committee and the proceeds will go toward our AV upgrade that was completed during 2024. It will also include a bake sale and 'live' auction of 'entertainment' items. Get those rhubarb recipes out and get ready to bake for our bake sale and come and enjoy a delicious brunch!





Grace Lutheran Church  
1730 Old Hudson Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55106



Affirmation of Baptism on May 4th!

Phone: 651-774-9617

FAX: 651-774-0006

[www.gracelutheranstpaul.fyi](http://www.gracelutheranstpaul.fyi)

[gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com)

**Pastor:**

Rev. Karen Williams

**Custodial Staff:**

Linda Denson

**Office Staff:**

Linda Sackreiter

**Music Staff:**

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Sanctuary Choir

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

